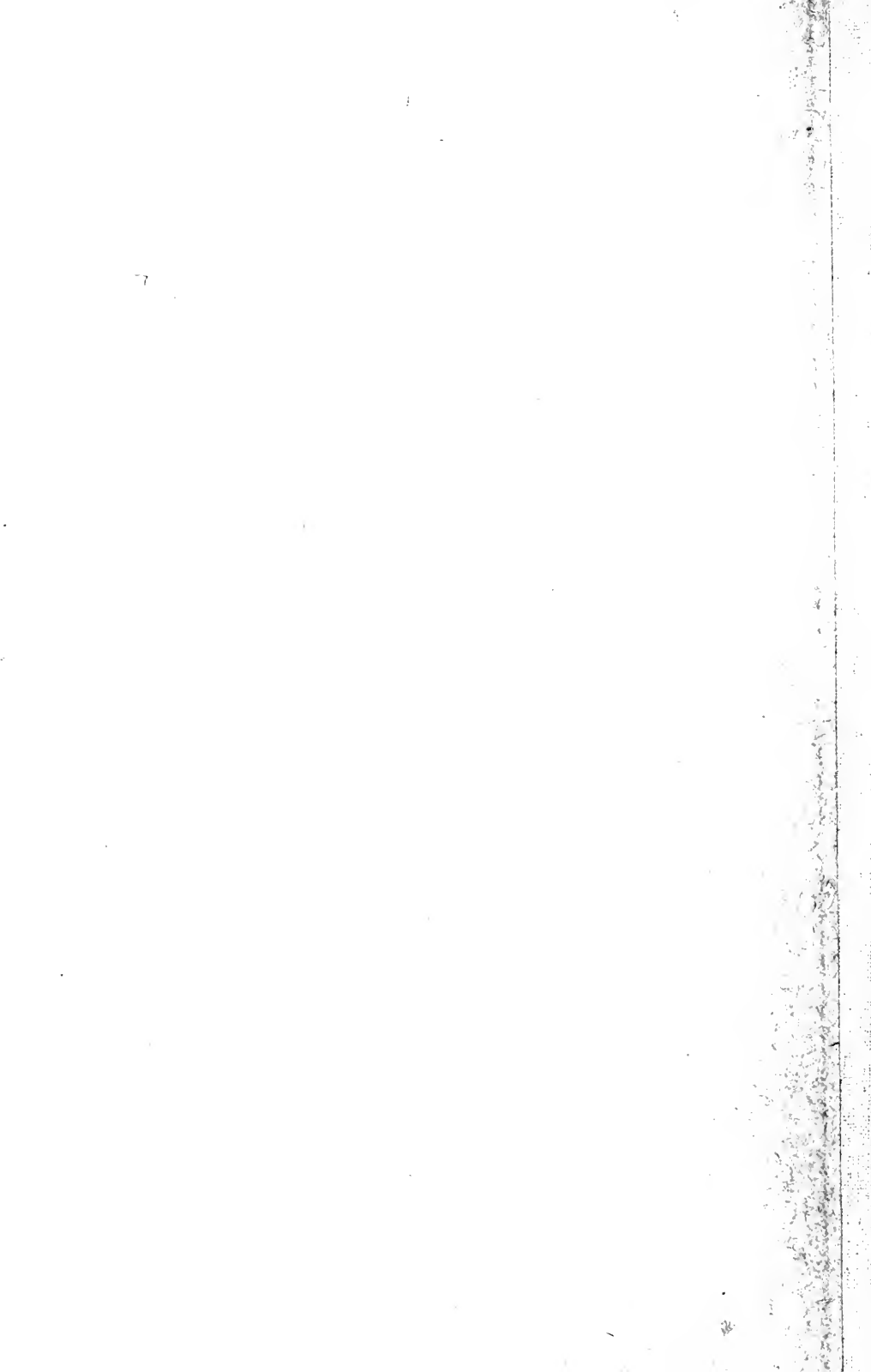


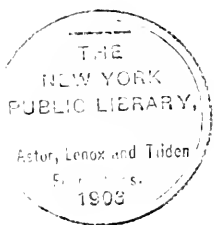
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Pitcher



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OBVERSE.



REVERSE.

THE GREAT SEAL
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

OFFICIAL.

THE
SEAL AND ARMS

OF

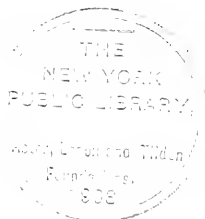
PENNSYLVANIA.

By JAMES EVELYN PILCHER, L.H.D.

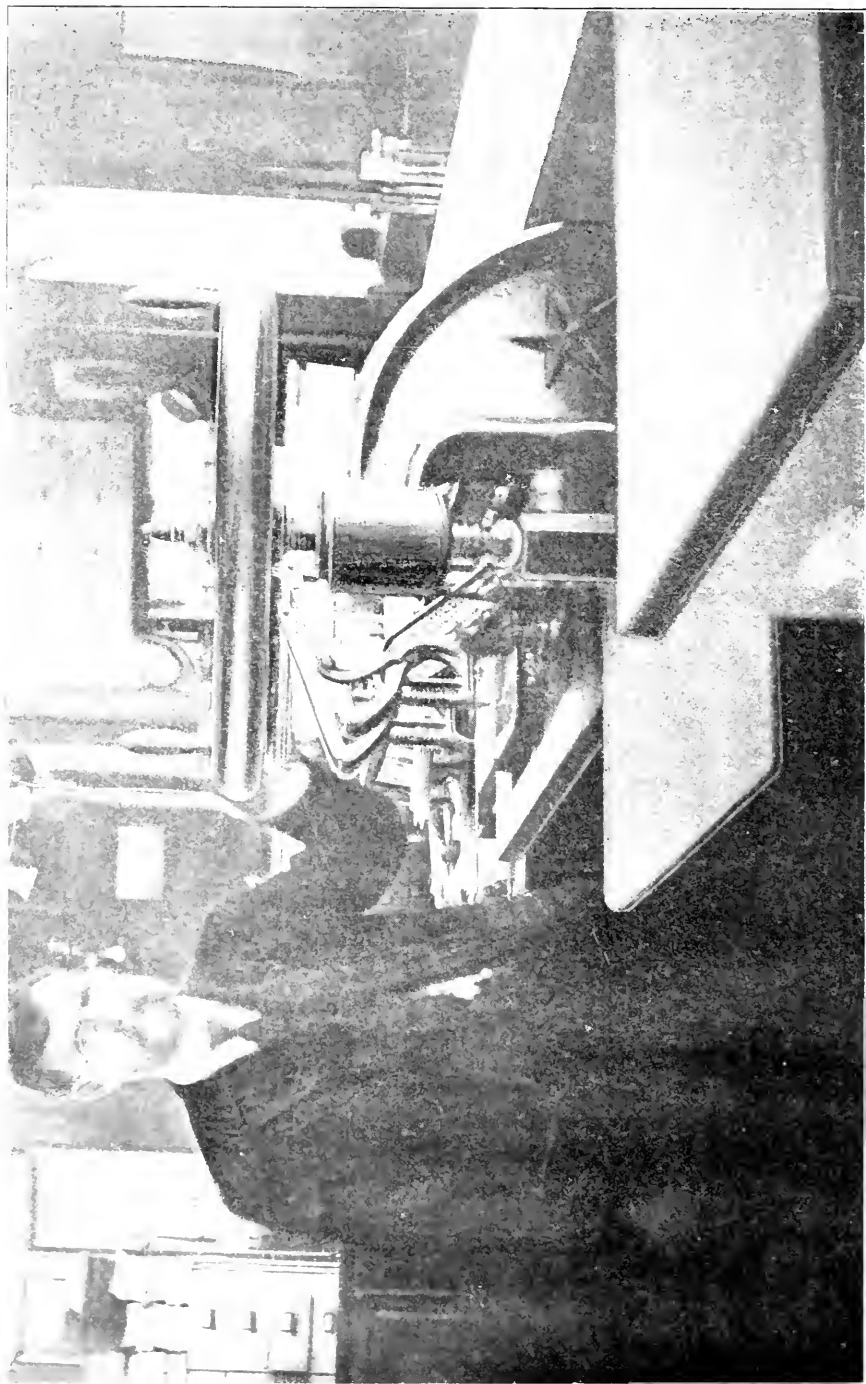
CARLISLE, PA.



HARRISBURG :
THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
W. I. STANLEY RAY, STATE PRINTER,
1902.



17760



THE SEAL PRESS OF THE GREAT SEAL.

THE SEAL AND COAT OF ARMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

IN connection with the preparation of the fourth series of the Pennsylvania Archives, it became necessary to examine many documents upon which the various forms of the seals and coat of arms of the Commonwealth appeared—affording probably a better opportunity for a study of these emblems than has hitherto occurred. Careful advantage was taken of these opportunities and the following study of the subject has been founded upon them.

When the son of Admiral Sir William Penn became proprietor of a vast estate in North America, in reward for his father's services to the crown, the Penn arms became the arms of the Province and the Penn seal became the seal of the Colony.

It should be observed that the seal is the impression made upon a plastic material by compression between the plates of a seal-press. The error of referring to the seal-press as a seal, is not uncommon, and has crept into some of the dictionaries, but strict accuracy dictates the rejection of its employment in that sense. A seal, then, is an impressed device attached to a paper for purposes of authentication, and the instrument, by which it is made, is a seal-press or stamp.

There were three kinds of provincial seals:

1. The Great Seal of the Province.
2. The Lesser Seal of the Province.
3. The Seal at Arms.

They were used upon documents of varying importance:

The Great Seal appeared upon treaties, proclamations, important instruments, and the like, and had also a counter seal or posterior face.

The Lesser Seal is found upon the laws, decisions of the Supreme Court, and less important executive and judicial papers, and has no counter seal.

The Seal at Arms may be seen upon summons to the Assembly, and orders addressed to provincial officials, and also has no counterseal.

In describing the seals and later, in considering the coat of arms, the numerous technicalities, obsolete expressions and mediæval appellations with which heraldic description abounds are avoided, since this description is designed for the general public and not for professional genealogists. Where heraldic terms are used at all, great pains has been taken in each case to define them.

We have two forms of the Great Seal of the province, under William Penn: one—the earlier—an enormous disc three-eighths of an inch thick and three inches or more in diameter,—impressed in red wax not directly upon the instrument authenticated by it, but upon ribbons, passed first through the documents to which it was attached, and protected by a tin box,—similar to those in which paste shoe-



THE GREAT SEAL OF WILLIAM PENN.

(Obverse and Reverse.)

blackening is sold—with openings upon the opposite sides of the box for the passage of the ribbons.

The later form of the Great Seal of William Penn is two inches in diameter, impressed in wax upon ribbons by which it was suspended from its document, and covered above and below by paper, so as to form a white paper covered disc. There are a number of these seals upon documents still in the possession of the Commonwealth.

This Great Seal of early provincial days, consists of the arms of the Penn family (a shield, crossed horizontally by a fess or band, bearing three torteaux or biscuit, and the motto, "Mercy, Justice")—the shield and motto surrounded by a circumferential band, bearing the words: William Penn, Proprietor and Governour of Pennsylvania."

Thomas Penn and

...whereas
...and we would be pleased to grant him
...of Pennsylvania is on
...We have
...and by
...the said
...and hereby reserved
...and hereby granted

and having

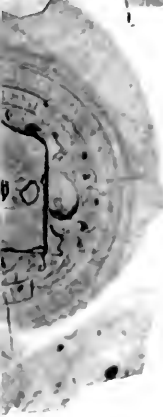
...in the County of Chester
...at the town of
...and more to be
...and hereby reserved
...and hereby granted

Richard Penn Esquire

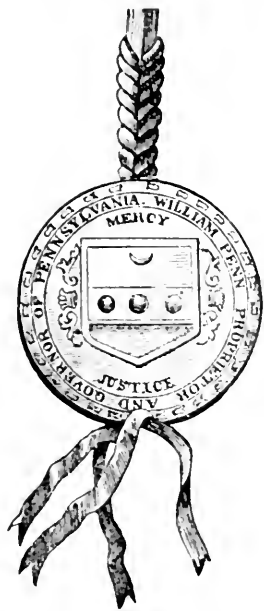
I, Richard Penn, Esquire, do hereby certify that the within and above written is a true and correct copy of the original as the same is now kept in my possession and custody.

Witness my hand and seal this 10th day of August 1769.

Richard Penn Esquire



The counterseal or posterior face presents three radiating ears of Indian corn within a circumferential band bearing the words: "Truth, Peace, Love and Plenty," surrounded circumferentially a second time by an olive branch.



The Great Seal of William Penn.— Later Form.

The Lesser Seal of William Penn's government was the same as the great seal, except that it was smaller, and had no counterseal.

When William Penn died, and his sons succeeded to the proprietorship of the Province, the seal was changed, but only in the outer band, in which were substituted the words: "John, Thomas and Richard Penn, Proprietors and Governors, Pensilvania." Such modifications continued to be made upon the occurrence of each change in the proprietorship. When John Penn died, the inscription was changed to "Thomas and Richard Penn, Proprietors and Governors," and when Richard Penn passed into that bourne whence no traveller returns, to be succeeded by his son John, the inscription was again modified to read, "Thomas and John Penn, Proprietors and Governors."

Of the Seal at Arms but little is known. I have yet to see any description of it, although certain printed papers, handed down to us from revolutionary times, contain references to it. It appears to have never hitherto been described nor illustrated.

The Seal at Arms, like other provincial seals, varied from time to time, not however according to the proprietors for the time being, but according to the wish of the various governors. The seal at arms of the administration of Governor George Thomas in 1740, consists of a shield bearing three lions rampant—standing on their hind legs and pawing the air—with a fourth and larger lion, also rampant, as a crest. This seal is an inch in diameter.

The seal at arms of Governor Hamilton, in 1762, consists of a shield bearing three quatrefoils or four-leaved flowers, while that of Governor John Penn, in 1774, consists of a shield crossed by the tradi-



The Penn Coat of Arms.

tional fess or band of the Penn family with its three torteaux or biscuit, and a tiger rampant as a crest.

The seal at arms of Governor Robert Hunter Morris, who presided over Pennsylvania during the troublous times of Braddock's campaign against the French and Indians at Fort Du Quesne, was a shield bearing the three torteaux of Penn quartered with the lions rampant of Thomas.



Lesser Seal of John, Thomas and Richard Penn.



Lesser Seal of Thomas and Richard Penn. On this seal the name of John Penn has merely been rudely chiseled out.

The Revolution put an end to all this instability of seals. The seal at arms was entirely abandoned. The lesser seal became merely a reduced copy of the great seal. And the great seal passed on from administration to administration without change.

The transition from the provincial to the state seal dates from 1776, when the Constitutional Convention of that year provided that "all



Seal at Arms Geo. Thomas.



Seal at Arms James Hamilton.



Seal at Arms R. H. Morris

commissions shall be * * * sealed with the State seal," and on the 28th of September, appointed Messrs. Rittenhouse, Jacobs and Clymer "a committee to prepare the seals for future legislature and executive council of the State." Just here a link is defective, for we have no record of the work of this committee, nor any report from it, but the papers of George Bryan, acting president of the Supreme



Obverse.



Reverse.

The Great Seal of Thomas and Richard Penn.

Council, about a year and a half later, are found to bear a great seal of the form, size and pattern which remained in use for the ensuing thirty-two years, and other evidence, to be considered in connection with the coat of arms, brings the design down to the time of this committee.



Seal at Arms R. H. Morris.



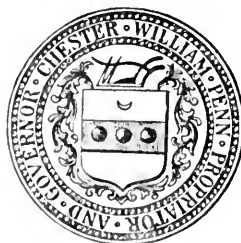
The Lesser Seal of 1776.

The design has incorrectly been said to be a combination of the crests shown on the seals of the three original counties of Pennsylvania,—and consisted of a circle having a band across the center bearing a plough, with a ship under full sail in the upper segment, and three sheaves of wheat in the lower, the whole surrounded by the inscription, "Seal of the State of Pennsylvania."

The Seals of the early Pennsylvania counties were formed by mounting a distinguishing crest upon the shield of the Penn coat of arms. The crest on the Chester county seal was a plough, that on the Philadelphia county seal was a ship under full sail, and it has been incorrectly supposed that the crest on the Bucks county seal was a sheaf of wheat; as a matter of fact the crest of the seal of Bucks county was a fig tree. (Archives, 3d Series, Vol. XIII.)



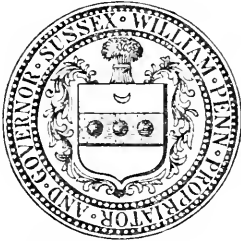
Seal of Philadelphia County.



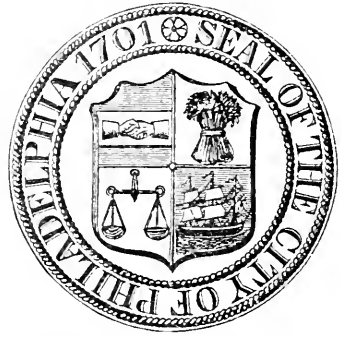
Seal of Chester County.

The sheaves of wheat may, however, have been derived from the seal of Sussex, one of the original counties of Delaware, which formed a part of Pennsylvania when a province. The sheaf of wheat was also quartered upon the seal of the city of Philadelphia, from which its use in the State seal may have been derived.

And thus came into being that combination of symbols, which for a century and a quarter has stood for the power and sovereignty of the greatest Commonwealth in that arch of states—the American Union, and which, by the might of its influence, the splendor of its example, and the force of its arms, has contributed more than any other of the factors combined into our Nation, to hold its parts together and to sustain its proud claim to be the keystone, which not only supports and consolidates all the other elements of the edifice, but itself is the capstone and crowning glory of the proud nation whose birth occurred within its borders.



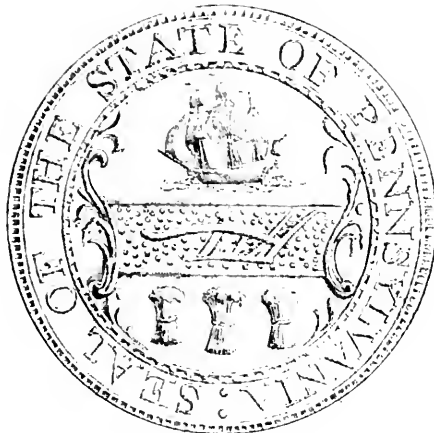
Seal of Sussex County.



Seal of the City of Philadelphia.

The counteseal still more eloquently symbolizes the pre-eminence of Pennsylvania in the cause of freedom and independence. For it represents Liberty as a majestic woman bearing in her left hand a wand, surmounted by a liberty cap, and in her right a drawn sword,—trampling upon Tyranny personified by a lion which lies crushed under her feet, the whole surrounded by the inscription, “Both can’t survive”—and nobly has the Commonwealth demonstrated that tyranny can not live among her liberty-loving citizens.

It was evidently a re-engraving of the matrix of this seal to which Monsieur Penet referred in his letter from Nantes to the Supreme Executive Council of May 20, 1780, in which he remarks: “Captain Samuel Smith, who has been ready to sail for some time, will deliver to you as soon as he arrives in Philadelphia, the seals representing the Arms of your State. As you desired, they were engraved in Paris.” This re-engraved matrix came over very soon after Monsieur Penet’s letter, as is evident from an examination of the official papers of 1780,—the seals of the latter portion of the year being much more clearly defined than those of the earlier portion. I emphasize the fact that this was a simple re-engraving of a design which had been in use for years before, to correct an erroneous impression that it originated at this time.



Obverse.



Reverse.

The Seal of 1776.

It was not until fifteen years after its first employment that this seal received legal recognition, the General Assembly, in 1791, conferring a legal status upon the seals theretofore used.*

And so this design continued on for three decades to attest the documents of the Commonwealth, authenticating the papers of Thomas McKean, Thomas Mifflin, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, and other chief magistrates of fame and eminence.

But in 1809, the matrix of the great seal having again become so worn as no longer to produce a distinct impression, legislation was enacted,† providing for a new die; and advantage was taken of the opportunity, to elaborate the previous design by the introduction of a shield with an eagle crest, upon which the ship, plough and wheat sheaves were emblazoned, but facing from left to right instead of from right to left, as had been the case with the previous design. On the left of the shield was placed a stalk of Indian corn, while an olive branch was laid upon the right. Festooned above, between the shield and the crest and falling down upon either side, was a flowering spray. About the margin was continued the inscription, "Seal of the State of Pennsylvania," but instead of reading from left to right, English fashion, it was made to read from right to left.

The seal of 1809 persisted for forty years, finding its place not only upon ordinary official documents of importance, but also upon the commissions of the Pennsylvania officers in the War of 1812 and the Campaigns in Mexico.

*The Constitution of 1776 contained no provision for a State Seal, although article 6, section 4, recognized its existence, but the first law that passed under that instrument, January 8, 1791, declared that "the seal of the State of the Commonwealth, as follows:

"Whereas The Great Seal of this Commonwealth did, on the second day of September last, cease to give any true and genuine Government for Pennsylvania, and no provision is therein made for public seals;

The Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in their last Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that in pursuance of the provisions of this Act, the seal, heretofore known by the name of the Great Seal of this Commonwealth, the custody of the Supreme Executive Council, is hereby constituted the State Seal, and shall be applied to all patents, proclamations, and other public acts, commissions, and other State papers, which require the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, and to which the same heretofore has been usually applied.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the seal lately in the custody of the Supreme Executive Council, called the Lesser Seal, shall be henceforth deemed and taken and shall be applied to the Less Seal of this Commonwealth, and, as such, set to hand the warrants, orders, and other documents to keep public houses, and such other documents, as have heretofore been made under the Lesser Seal.

"And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the said seals, respectively, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be the Great and Less Seals of this Commonwealth, and shall be applied respectively, under the direction of the Governor."

"Whereas The Great Seal of this Commonwealth is so nearly worn out, that it is necessary to renew the same, and whereas it appears that there is no description thereof on record, and it being proper that the said seal should be particularly described and established, so that the same may hereafter be more fully known and recognized, therefore,

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the Secretary of the Commonwealth be, and he is hereby directed by the authority of the same, the bearer of the Great Seal of this Commonwealth, and record and deposit a description thereof in writing in His office, that the same may be made perpetual."

Under the foregoing Act a record was made of the Great Seal, which we find in the Executive Minutes for the date of Saturday, July 1, 1809, as follows:

"In obedience to the directions of an Act of General Assembly, passed the second day of March, one thousand eight hundred and nine, the following description of the Great Seal is recorded, that is to say:

"The shield shall be supported by two figures, charged with a plough, proper, in chief, on a sea wavy, proper, a ship under full sail, surmounted with a sky, Azure, and in Base, on a field Vert, three Garbs, or. On the sinister a stock of maize, and Dexter an olive branch. And on the wreath of its crown, a bald eagle, Proper, perched, wings extended, for the Crest. Motto: Virtue, Liberty, and Independence! Round the margin of the seal, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The reverse, Liberty, trampling on a Lyon, Gules, the emblem of Tyranny. Motto: Both can't survive."

During the administration of Governor Bigler in 1854, a modification of this seal was used, similar in design but with a broader shield.



Seal of 1858.

In 1858 the inscription was corrected to read from left to right and in this shape the seal continued to perform its functions for thirty years.

On one occasion, in a published Thanksgiving proclamation of Governor Curtin in 1865 and possibly in printed versions of some other public documents, a substitute for a seal was employed, which consisted simply of the coat of arms of that date,—supporters, crest, and all—

included within a circle. This was not a seal, although incorrectly so used, and it is astonishing that the use of this unjustifiable substitute is very prevalent in unofficial publications. The largest manufacturers of printers supplies in the country offer it to their customers as the correct design, and many persons are thus unwittingly led into the error of its use. It is not, never has been, and I am safe in saying, never will be the seal of the State of Pennsylvania.

In 1868, however, the seal was again modified by the introduction of the scroll-work design in the lower segment of the circumferential band.

In 1893, although the previous design continued occasionally to be used during that and the following year,—the seal now in use and shown in the frontispiece was adopted, differing from the immediately preceding form in the omission of the wreath or festoon about the upper part of the shield and, as in the seal of 1876, facing the plough and ship from right to left. This is the seal of to-day, and it will probably go forward unchanged as long as Pennsylvania remains a State and the hearth stones of her homes continue their hospitable functions.

The heraldic tinctures properly appear in the seal, as well as in the coat of arms, but, as they can never be brought out in an impressed seal by hand coloring when the seal is complete, they are ordinarily represented by certain conventional signs. A background of transverse lines, for instance, indicates blue, one of dots or points marks gold, and one of oblique lines represents green. The heraldic colors,



Incorrect substitute for the Seal used in 1865.



Seal of 1809.



Seal of 1854.

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FOUNDATIONS
1906

—familiar from the very excellent representation in *Smull's Hand book*,—are accordingly conventionally so indicated in relief in the seal.

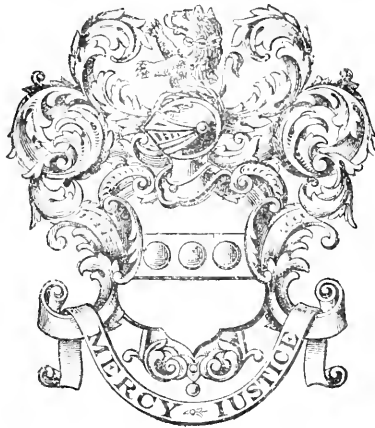


Seal of 1868.

In addition to the heraldic tinctures conventionally indicated, the seals of Pennsylvania have from time to time varied in actual color. The first great seal of William Penn was the color of the red wax of which it was composed. The remaining Penn seals were of the shade of the white paper with which they were covered. The use of white paper persisted until 1852, when other tints were introduced, the counterscal, however, remaining in white down to the present day. Governor Bigler used a yellow seal and sometimes a green one. Governor Curtin's seals were red or blue interchangeably, and with Governor Geary began the use of the gilt seal which has been employed by his successors down to the present day.

The practice of impressing the seal upon ribbons continued at intervals until 1780. In many instances prior to that date, and without exception since that period it has been impressed directly upon the document. Wax was used to give body to the seal and permit of a double impression—obverse and reverse—until recently, when a wafer of rice flour was substituted. This wafer is a sixteenth of an inch thick and of the same diameter as the matrix of the seal. It is utilized by slightly moistening and applying it to the back of the gilt paper cover; both are then affixed to the document to be authenticated and placed in the press, where they are duly stamped into the semblance of the Great Seal of the Commonwealth.

While the seals cut a very prominent figure during the provincial period, the Coat of Arms, except as it partially entered into the seal, was kept so much in the back ground that it may be said to have hardly appeared in colonial documents.



The Penn Coat of Arms.

Soon after the declaration of independence, however, a State coat of arms appeared upon the State paper money, which was issued early in 1777. Examination shows that this design is hardly more than the first State seal, without the encircling inscription.

Emphasis is laid upon this point because, prior to the present researches, the existence of the first State seal was not traced farther back than 1780. Reference has already been made to the discovery of seals of this design upon the papers of Acting President Bryan, two years earlier, and now this evidence is submitted, bringing the design down to 1776, and covering the gap of four years between the provincial and State seals, which previous investigators were unable to account for. It may be suggested that the seal might have been copied from the coat of arms, but that is disproved by the fact that, had the coat of arms been the original design, it would have been supplied with the crest, supporters and motto naturally belonging thereto.

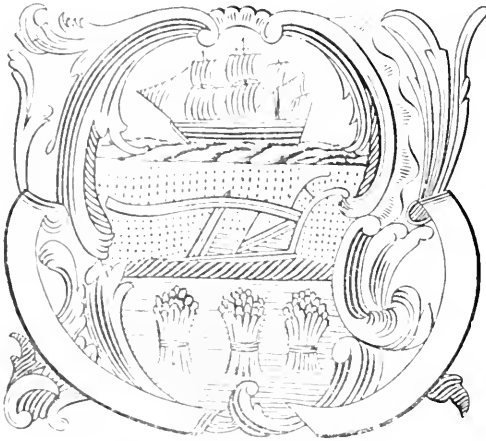
In the following year, indeed, these were supplied in the coat of arms engraved by Caleb Lowmes, of Philadelphia. Here were provided: first, a shield, upon which the ship, plough and sheaves of wheat were emblazoned; second, a crest, consisting of an eagle with outstretched wings; third, supporters, consisting of two black horses harnessed for drawing a vehicle, one upon each side of the shield, and behind each of them a stalk of corn; fourth, a cornstalk and olive branch crossed below the shield; and fifth, the motto: "Virtue, Liberty and Independence," upon a streamer extending across the entire width of the arms, below the other elements.

7
A
In the Name
and the authority of the Common
wealth of Pennsylvania
James Snyder
Governor of the said Commonwealth
Proclamation

Whereas it is and by
act of the General Assembly of this
Commonwealth entitled "An Act to
provide for the election of Representatives of
this Congress of the United States"
passed and due in the year one thousand eight
hundred and two that the Governor having received the returns
of the City and County of Philadelphia
of the several Counties of this
Commonwealth in pursuance of the
said Proclamation the name of the
persons duly elected in each respective
County appears from the returns of a
general election held on the tenth day of the present month, for
pursuance of laws passed by me for that purpose in and for the dis-
trict of the City and County of Philadelphia and the County of
Delaware.

Proclamation of Governor Snyder, the first to be authen-
ticated by the Seal of 1800.

In 1790, this coat of arms appeared with the shield changed to the shape now in vogue, but with practically no other changes.



First Engraved Arms.- 1777.

From this point sets out the long procession of representations and misrepresentations of our armorial bearings, which have adorned or disfigured the official documents of the last century.

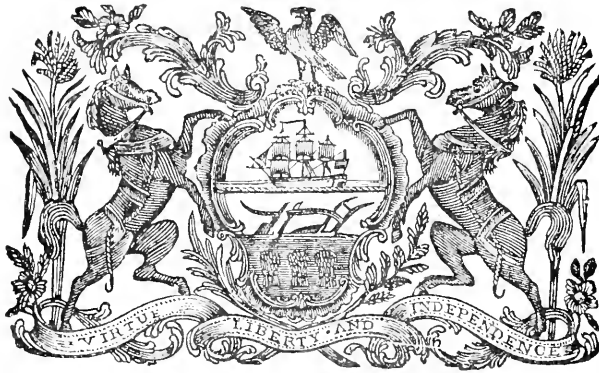
In 1805 a modified form appeared in which the cornstalks were omitted from either side and the horses were deprived of their trap-



The Arms of 1775.

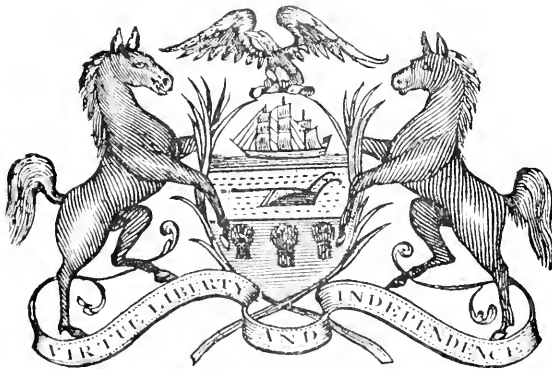
pings and thenceforward, the Indian corn was permanently omitted, while the harness did not reappear until seventy years later, in 1875.

In 1809, one of the horses became white, and in 1820, both of them lost their color. In 1823, under Governor Shulze, the coat of arms was for the first time emblazoned upon the proclamations,—in the form of an exceedingly primitive wood cut with the two black chargers recumbent, while in 1829, one of the horses had arisen, although the other still reclined. In 1832, both animals had become white and were moving both in the same direction, to the right.



The Arms of 1790.

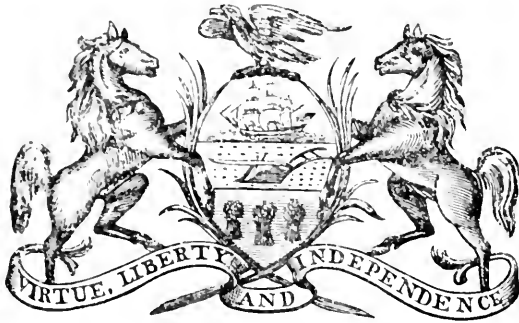
In 1870, the courseters remained on the same sides, while the rising sun of prosperity, hidden behind the shield, sent up over the horizon numerous streaming rays of light, and a horn of plenty cast forth its contents in front.



The Arms of 1805.

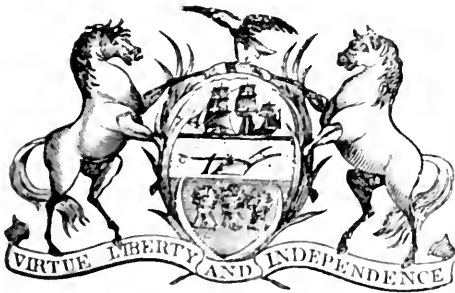
In 1873, our rampant steeds had again changed sides, while the rising sun, ascending still nearer the horizon, irradiated its mighty pencils of light still more brilliantly upon the iridescent canvas of the heavens.

And in 1875, the white horse was pronounced an interloper and banished in disgrace, while the dusky charger, whom he had supplanted, was brought forth from his imprisonment of seventy years and again paired with his brother in black, to support the arms

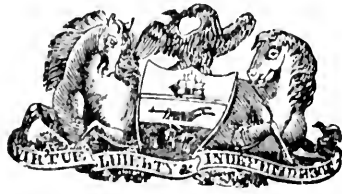


The Arms of 1809.

of the Commonwealth so long as the earth shall endure and the heavens look down upon the race of man. Each of them was also fitted with a harness by means of which they are ever prepared to draw the splendid car of state out of all difficulties on to the solid rock of ceaseless prosperity and perpetual affluence.



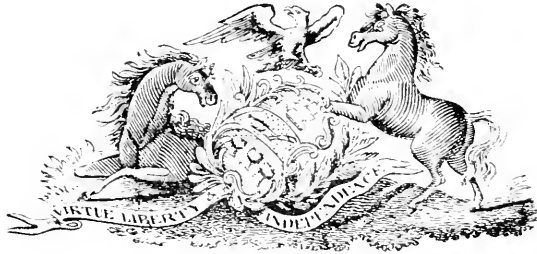
The Arms of 1820.



The Arms of 1823.

Hitherto, while in general use and of a fairly invariable character, the coat of arms had never received the sanction of law. In 1874, attention having been called to this anomalous condition, the

General Assembly appointed a commission* to correct the arms and purge them of all the errors which had arisen in connection with



The Arms of 1829.

them; and in 1875 this commission reported to the Legislature a coat of arms, practically that of 1790, which is stated to have been engraved by Lownes, and which may be described technically as follows:

*The preamble of the joint resolution, approved the 30th day of April, 1811, directs the appointment of a commission, "to correct the Coat or Arms of the Commonwealth," and "to have the same recorded in the State Archives," set forth that,

"Whereas, There is no record of the Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth, to be found in any Department of the Government, and whereas, such armorial ensigns are frequently used, attached to or copied upon public documents of various kinds, as also upon banners upon State occasions, such as are very likely to arise during the approaching centennial celebration, and in other ways displayed or issued from the seat of government, wherein correctness and regularity are desirable; and whereas, The Arms now in use, from their style and from their approach to uniformity, are evidently founded upon and derived from the devices composing the Great Seal of the State, now of correct record in the State Department, thus conferring what would seem to be sufficient authority upon the said armorial bearings by common consent and custom, though more specific authority be not known to exist, or having existed, has been lost."

This commission was authorized "to have the present Arms of the State, as far as ascertained, the same being derived from the Great Seal, corrected of such errors or anomalies as may be therein discovered by careful comparison with and consultation of the science of the rules of heraldry, and as soon as may be practicable, to have a copy of said Arms, so corrected, carefully emblazoned and described, so as to be of record in the State Department for future reference; the description to be in manner similar to the description of the Great Seal now of record in said Archives."

Dr. Egle remarks that, "the commissioners at first delegated their authority to two gentlemen well versed in heraldry, to report any suggestions or recommendations. Unfortunately these gentlemen transacted their authority and report at first a Coat of Arms with the following heraldic devices:

"Escutcheon.—Party, per fess, azure, and vert; on field azure, a ship sailing proper with cannon Arms of Penn. argent, fess sable with three plates; on the fess, or, a plow; on field vert, three garbs, or.

"Crest.—On an escroll sustained by a keystone, an eagle, rousant, proper.

"Supporters—Two horses, sable, rearing, respecting, caparisoned for draught.

"Motto.—'Virtue, Liberty, and Independence.'"

Another modification of the escutcheon was suggested, as follows:

"Party per fess, or, azure and vert; on field azure, a ship sailing, proper; on a field vert three garbs, or; over the fess on an escutcheon of pretence, argent, fess sable with three plates."

The foregoing was thus recommended, to the surprise of every one who was familiar with the history of the early seal of the State, and also with the resolution of the Legislature, which directed that "the present Arms of the State" as "derived from the Great Seal" be "corrected of such errors or anomalies as may be therein discovered" and "carefully emblazoned and described, so as to be of record." In their report, the gentlemen alluded to, seem to have been impressed with the idea, not that they were to decide the question of what was the Arms of the Commonwealth, but to report such Arms as they saw proper. The result was that the plow was to be displaced by the Penn Coat of Arms, while the eagle on the crest, was to stand on the keystone instead "on a wreath of its colors."

The attention of the commissioners being called to the fact that such authority was not warranted by the resolution of the Assembly, a collection was made of impressions of the Arms of the State, as designed at various periods, as well as impressions of the Great Seal, hereafter to be described, and, in recognition thereof, the following:—The commissioners reported to the next General Assembly, March 17, 1875, the following:

"That they had adopted the Arms as represented by Caleb Lownes in 1788, which represented the veritable Arms of the State, describing the same so as to be of record in the State Department for future reference.—Report of the State Librarian, 1893.

Escutcheon.—Party per fess, azure and vert. On a chief of the first, a ship under sail. On a fess, a plough proper. On a base of the second, three garbs, or.



The Arms of 1832.

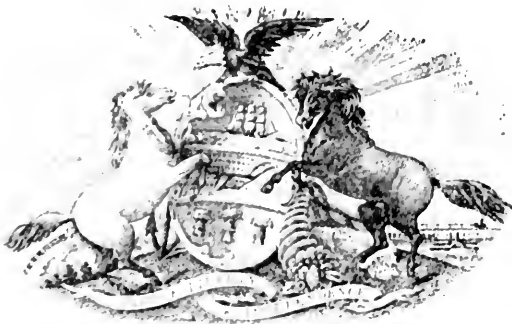
Crest.—An eagle, rousant, proper, on a wreath of its colors.

Supporters.—Two horses, sable, caparisoned for draught, rearing, respectant.

Motto.—"Virtue, Liberty and Independence."

The adoption of the arms, thus recommended, placed them on a permanent footing and relieved them from a continuation of the vicissitudes to which the mutations of the preceding century had subjected them.

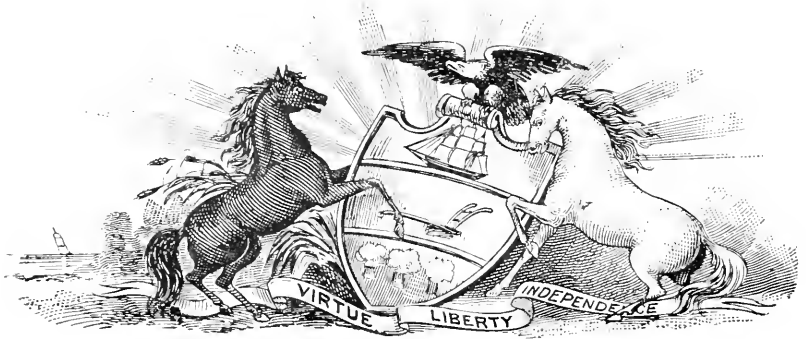
The coat of arms is usually displayed in simple black and white, but these are by no means the heraldic colors in which it is emblazoned upon the State flag, and in other places where entire ac-



The Arms of 1870.

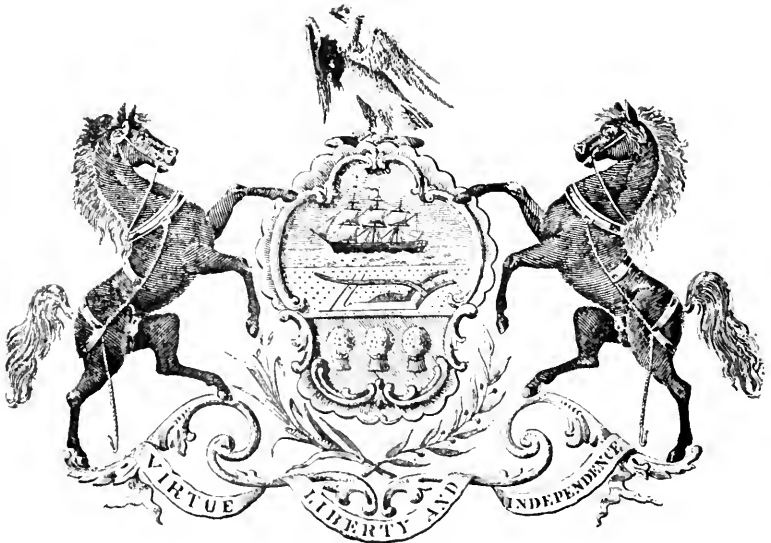
curacy is needed. The eagle is the *Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*, or American bald eagle, with white head and tail and deep red or brown body. The horses are, of course, black, as has already been specified. The fess, or band, and the margins of the shield are of gold. The

ship, of black, with white sails, rests upon a sea of blue surmounted by a sky of the same hue, and the plough stands out in deep red or brown and white upon its gilded base; while the three golden sheaves appear upon a field of green. The cornstalk and olive branch, crossed under the shield, are also of green, while the motto is printed in black upon a blue streamer.



The Arms of 1873.

The armorial tinctures or colors each have a significance:—Gold indicates Faith and Constancy; blue signifies Justice and Loyalty; green represents Courtesy and Affability; black typifies Prudence and Constancy; red denotes Charity and Magnanimity; and white betokens Hope and Innocence.



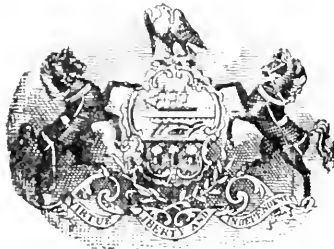
The Arms of 1875.

The arms of Pennsylvania then consist of a shield, bordered in the gold of faith and constancy, supported by speed and strength personified by two rampant steeds of sable hue further denoting



COAT OF ARMS OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

prudence and fidelity, and crowned with an eagle—symbolizing sovereignty—in tincture of deep red (indicating charity and magnanimity), with tip of white, further signaling hope and purity; while underneath the cornstalk of plenty and the olive branch of peace are ever bound together in the love and comity marked by their verdant tinge. Upon the shield, a ship of black and white—wisdom and anticipation—sails upon a changeless sea of azure, ever teeming with justice and loyalty; a ruddy plough stands for generosity and devotion upon an eternal golden base of honor and integrity; while the three sheaves, in gold of constancy and abundance, never desert their emerald environment of gentleness and courtesy;—the whole completed and perfected by a scroll of celestial hue, bearing the glorious motto of the Commonwealth in ebony tinge,—prudence and constancy upon justice and loyalty.



Recent Form of the Arms of 1875.

All of its component elements then combine to render the coat of arms a tangible assertion of the sovereignty of the Commonwealth. It is an announcement to the world, of the position of the State among her sisters. Its very existence means authority, strength, leadership, wealth and empire. It indicates the right to raise and maintain troops; it asserts the authority to levy taxes and collect revenues; it affirms her competency to direct and compel the education of her people; and is a visible vindication of her power and prerogative to maintain peace, promote morals and suppress vice.

But a deeper examination of the coat of arms of Pennsylvania shows that it has a far wider and more honorable signification than that pertaining to the realm of sovereignty.

The plough points to the great subterranean resources of the Commonwealth. This homely implement of industry opens up the soil to the products of agriculture growing in prodigious profusion throughout the State. It suggests the splendid vegetation, adapted to every want of man, which springs up throughout the fertile valleys and productive glades of Pennsylvania. It reminds us of the swarming multitudes of domestic animals sustained by the products of husbandry. It calls up pictures of the vast daily industries, and of the spreading orchards hanging heavy with the rich fruitage of her gardens.

And then, taken in connection with its golden background, it brings to mind the vast mineral deposits to be opened up and adapted to the uses of man. The iron which, in the rockbound fastnesses of her mountain heights, has for ages awaited the opportunity to come forth and assume,—here the form of the shining blade with which the captain leads his men to combat, there the delicate watch-spring, which regulates the labor of a thousand men: here the mighty fly-wheel controlling the vast machinery of a factory which spreads its products all over the face of the earth, there the tiny pen, which, despite its lack of size, governs the earth and prescribes laws for all mankind.

The boundless veins of coal,—which furnish power to the busy workshops and giant factories, the thunderous locomotive and the winged steamships; which furnish the heat to turn the winter of our homes into balmy summer, and render palatable the viands which support our lives; and which give us the light that transforms our nights into the brightness of noonday. These and many other minerals the great Keystone State pours forth generously into the outstretched arms of the waiting nations.

The Sheaves of Wheat, upon their field of green, typify the splendid harvest which the State affords to the world, not only in her wealth of agricultural products and her treasures of mineral richness, but in the vast field of human thought and action. Manufactures of all kinds bring forth a tremendous output of ornamental and useful articles. Handicrafts are encouraged to the highest degree, and no useful art is so poor and insignificant as not to obtain a market for abundant products. While mental effort here reaps its highest rewards, and learning yearly brings forth a fruitage of well-taught minds, who readily find a market for their wares.

The Ship, upon its blue expanse, symbolizes the vast network of commercial relations ramifying throughout the State and sending its branches out into every quarter of the globe. It is the complement and completion of each of the other elements of the shield. It collects and disseminates the products of the soil; it supplies the crude materials and distributes the manufactured commodities; it brings the learning of the ages to our doors, and draws out into the brilliant light of public view every individual, so that for very shame, no man dares to remain clothed in the ignorance and crudity of less enlightened periods.

The three parts of the shield thus form a complete and harmonious whole, and well stand for a Commonwealth so rich in resources and varied in products, for a people so boundless in energy, and fertile in design, and for a government so efficient in organization and effective in administration. So unlimited are her resources,

indeed, that were the State to be surrounded to-morrow with an impassable barrier, everything needed for the comfort and luxury of her citizens could be provided from her own territory.

No less instructive and suggestive is her motto, "Virtue, Liberty and Independence." Virtue is a tradition of Pennsylvania, dating from the time when the province passed out of the hands of the profligate Charles II of England into the possession of that magnificent character, William Penn. Penn, the Quaker, Penn the martyr, for his belief, Penn the Onas of the Iroquois, the Miquon of the Delawares, the honored adoptive father of both. Founded upon the basis of "Justice" and "Mercy," the motto of the Penn family, and conducted along the lines of "Truth, Peace, Love and Plenty," the motto of the proprietary counterseal, the sway of the Penns ever followed along the lines of honor and humanity. With this proud page in her early annals, Pennsylvania may ever hope to perpetuate virtue throughout her history.

From the first, the people of Pennsylvania were tenacious of their rights and intolerant of any intrusion upon their privileges. It was more than appropriate then that the tocsin of liberty, which roused every loyal heart in '76 should have sounded forth from her Statehouse. It was entirely suitable that the "Cradle of Liberty" should have been located within her borders. Liberty is, then, peculiarly fitted to be introduced into the motto of Pennsylvania, which gave Joseph Reed, Thomas Mifflin, John Dickinson, Anthony Wayne, Benjamin Franklin and a host of other brave and loyal sons to do battle against tyranny and oppression in the Revolution; whose governor's wife in 1812 even tore her mantle into fragments to adorn the uniforms of the soldiers of the Commonwealth in the second war with England; and whose chief magistrate still later was honored with a paean of praise by the Poet of Freedom, John G. Whittier, because of his fearless fulminations, against negro slavery.

The pursuit of personal liberty could have no other terminal than civic Independence. And that people, who wrested the leaden weights from their clocks to cast into bullets for the minions of tyranny, whose Valley Forge was sanctified by the blood of martyrs poured out for the cause of freedom, whose Wyoming was sacred soil sprinkled with the tears of thousands shed for the defenceless victims of that slaughter of the innocents, had most unquestionably vindicated their title to emblazon "Independence" upon their arms.

And nowhere do these arms shine more resplendently than upon the flag of the State, that flag which, side by side with the stars and stripes, has fought its way along the lakes in 1812 in defense of the rights of her citizens who had been impressed by Great Britain, and whose bravery in the battle of Lake Erie was so conspicuous as to entitle them to medals of honor from the Commonwealth.

That flag of deep blue, with golden fringe, and coat of arms in tints heraldic embroidered upon its azure field,—floated inspiringly at the head of her regiments in the Mexican War, and planted itself proudly before Chapultepec as a signal to the world of the might and loyalty of the Keystone State, and as it floated triumphantly back to the banks of the Susquehanna, it left behind to hallow the Aztec soil the mortal remains of not a few of her brave sons as a perpetual reminder of her worth.

And, again, in that internecine conflict of the sixties, the flag of the Commonwealth bore the coat of arms into an enemy's country in defence of the "Virtue, Liberty and Independence," to which her motto had committed the State. Here, again, on a hundred fields the valor of Pennsylvania's sons shines forth a beacon light to the ages. Meade, Hancock, Crawford, Geary, Hartranft, Beaver, Macfeely, Henderson and a host of other distinguished commanders were crowned with the laurels which fell in the path of the Keystone troops; and many a rout was transformed into victory by the forward rush of the Pennsylvania flag.

And, only the other day, when struggling Cuba stretched forth her manacled hands in prayer for help, the coat of arms upon the flag at the head of still other regiments flew brave defiance to the Spanish enemies of "Virtue, Liberty and Independence." Everywhere that work was to be done, there that azure banner streamed by the side of the stars and stripes, worthy companion in many a hard-fought fray. Through the Pearl of the Antilles, across the glades of Porto Rico, around the morasses of the Phillipines, it has led the gallant sons of the Keystone State ever to victory and triumph.

And so, alike in times of peace and war, the proud escutcheon of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ever guides her people upward and onward to the inevitable goal of unfailling success, a success which we in this day can see but as in a glass darkly, but which, in the fast coming future, will expand and enlarge beyond the power of the present to presage.



STATE FLAG
OF
PENNSYLVANIA.

SIZE OF FLAG SIX FEET SIX INCHES FLY
AND SIX FEET ON STAFF.



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